In the year 2003-04, a sum of Rs. 366.64 lakh and Rs. 471.50 lakh has been released to the States of Orissa and West Bengal respectively as 1st instalment under Swajaldhara. Funds were not released to Bihar during the year 2003-04 as the State Government did not provide the requisite details as per Swajaldhara Guidelines. Details of proposals (including number) cleared by the District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC) are maintained at the District level.

Setting up of desalination plants

*139. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of. RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up desalination plants in different parts of the country to augment supply of drinking water in rain starved States like Tamil Nadu and others; and

(b) if so, who will fund for the setting up of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance Government *inter-alia* states that "to put an end to the acute drinking water shortage in cities, especially in Southern States, desalination plants will be installed all along the Coromandal coast starting with Chennai". The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation have requested the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu to submit proposals for setting up the desalination Plants in coastal cities/towns facing water scarcity.

As far as rural sector is concerned, full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling water quality problems, including salinity, for which 15% of annual funds allotted to them under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), are specifically earmarked.

Atrocities on women

*140. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a; whether it is a fact that atrocities on women are on the rise in the country;